Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A composition comprising

a) one or more hydrogel-forming hydrophilic homopolymers or heteropolymers and

b) one or more amphiphilic block-copolymers comprising (i) one or more hydrophobic polymer blocks ~~being~~ incompatible with the hydrogel-forming hydrophilic homopolymers or heteropolymers and (ii) one or more hydrophilic polymer end blocks ~~being~~ compatible with the hydrogel-forming hydrophilic homopolymers or heteropolymers.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprising the composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic homopolymer or heteropolymer is selected from polymers having intrinsic adhesive properties, or the composition contain a tackyfier or a plasticizer providing or improving the adhesive properties of the compostion.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 2 wherein the hydrophilic homopolymer or heteropolymer is selected from polymers having intrinsic adhesive properties.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The composition as claim 3 wherein the hydrophilic homopolymer or heteropolymer is a polymethylvinylether.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The composition as claimed in claim 2 wherein the the composition contain a tackyfier or a plasticizer providing or improving the adhesive properties of the compostion.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic homopolymer or heteropolymer is poly-vinylpyrrolidone or copolymer containing vinylpyrrolidone monomer~~, preferably the hydrophilic homopolymer is poly-vinylpyrrolidone~~.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 comprising a plasticizer for the hydrophilic homopolymer or heteropolymer.

Claim 8 (original): The composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, suitable PEG 400, and water.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight of at least 1000~~, preferably between 1000 and 500.000, more preferred between 1000 and 300.000, more preferred between 1000 and 100.000, or most preferred between 1000 and 50.000~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight of at least 1000~~, preferably between 1000 and 300.000, more preferred between 50.000 and 300.000~~.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the amphiphilic block copolymer is a triblock copolymer having the formula ABA, a diblock copolymer of formula AB, or a multi block or three or multi arm star-shaped copolymer structure, containing A and B blocks.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer comprises polymerised styrene.

Claim 13 (original): The composition according to claim 12 wherein the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer consists essentially of polymerised styrene.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The composition according to any of claims 1-2, 9 and 11 claim 1, characterized in that the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer comprises polymerised hydrophobic (meth)acrylic ester.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 14 wherein the hydrophobic block(s) consists essentially of polymerised (meth)acrylic ester.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer comprises polymerised vinylic unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon comprising from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 16, characterized in that the vinylic unsaturated hydrocarbon comprises 4 carbon atoms

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the amphiphilic block copolymer comprises at least two hydrophobic blocks, one of the hydrophobic block(s) consisting essentially of polymerised styrene and another hydrophobic block consisting essentially of polymerised (meth)acrylic acid ester.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the hydrophilic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer comprises polymerised monomers selected from ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acid monomers , such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid and fumaric acid; and monoalkyl esters of dicarboxylic acids and their N-substituted derivatives (amides), amides of unsaturated carboxylic acids, such as

acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-methoxyacrylamide, acrylamide or methacrylamide, and N-alkylacrylamides; ethylenic monomers containing a sulphonic acid group and ammonium or alkali metal salts thereof, amides of vinylamine and unsaturated ethylenic monomers containing a secondary, tertiary or quaternary amino group, or a heterocyclic group containing nitrogen, and aminoalkyl (meth)acrylamides and zwitterionic monomers.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 19, characterized in that the hydrophilic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer comprises polymerised acrylic acid and salts thereof.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic block is a polyethylene glycol or a homopolymer or copolymer of acrylic acid, maleic acid, hydroxyethylmethacrylate (HEMA), vinylpyrrolidone (NVP), polyethyleneglycol(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethyleneglycol(meth)acrylate, methoxyethyl(meth)acrylate, ethoxy(meth)acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylate (DMAEMA) and 3-dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamid (DMAPMA).

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1 characterized in that the amphiphilic block copolymer is an amphiphilic polyurethane block copolymer.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1 in the form of foam.

"the ultimate burden of persuasion on the issue." *In re Oetiker*, 24 USPQ 1443, 1444 and 1447 (Fed. Cir. 1992) . "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art," *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970), "and it is error to ignore specific limitations distinguishing over the [prior art] reference." *Ex parte Murphy*, 217 USPQ 479, 481 (PO Bd. App. 1982). A "ground of rejection is simply inadequate on its face . . . [when] the cited references do not support each limitation of [the] claim." *In re Thrift*, 63 USPQ2d 2002, 2008 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

In order to meet the limitation on the present claims to "amphiphilic block—copolymers"—and, so, satisfy the *all elements rule* (*Royka, supra*)—the PTO relies on the description of an amphiphilic block copolymer in CA '251; in particularly an amphiphilic block copolymer in CA '251 (page 2, lines 25-34, and page 8, lines 23-28) that "comprises polystyrene blocks and polyethylene glycol blocks" (Office Action, page 7). With all due respect, the statement of rejection neglects specific teachings of CA '251 that are indispensable with respect to accurately characterizing the disclosed amphiphilic block copolymer.

The CA '251 is limited to a very specific triblock copolymer, which contain only blocks of styrene polymer and ethylene/butylene polymer. As taught in CA '251 (page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 11) (emphasis added):

> according to a first feature, the present patent application aims to cover amphiphilic block copolymers of the ABA type containing two polystyrene thermoplastic end blocks A and one elastomeric mid block B, wherein this mid block B is a

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1 containing a pharmaceutically active compound, such as an antibacterial agent.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A dressing, e.g. a wound dressing where the skin facing surface and/or the body of the dressing comprises a composition according to claim 1.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A medical device adapted for being attached to the surface of a living being comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive composition according to claim 1 at the surface, which is to be attached to the surface of the living being.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): Use of an adhesive composition according to claim 1 for securing items, such as wound dressings, wound drainage bandages, ostomy, or protheses to the skin.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): Use of an adhesive composition according to claim 1 for sealing around an ostomy.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): A medical appliance, e.g. a surgical suture, a catheter or a guidewire, for introduction into a natural or artificial body cavity of a living being, where at least the part of said appliance to be inserted into said body cavity comprises a composition according to claim 1.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The medical appliance according to claim 29, which is carrying said composition as a coating at least on its outer surface.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The medical appliance according to claim 29, where at least the part of the medical appliance to be inserted into said body cavity is made of said composition.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The medical appliance according to claim 29, wherein said composition contains water or an aqueous solution in an amount sufficient to achieve a slippery surface of the composition.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The medical appliance according to claim 32 wherein the aqueous solution contain an osmolality increasing water-soluble compound.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The medical appliance according to claim 31 wherein said aqueous solution contain glycerol.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): An electrically conductive composition comprising a composition according to claim 1 as well as an aqueous solution of a salt.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): An electrode comprising an electrically conductive member and an electroconductive composition according to claim 35 being adapted to be in contact with the surface of a living being.

Claim 37 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic homopolymer or heteropolymer is the hydrophilic homopolymer poly-vinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 38 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight between 1,000 and 500,000.

Claim 39 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight between 1,000 and 100,000.

Claim 40 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight between 1,000 and 50,000.

Claim 41 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight between 1,000 and 300,000.

Claim 42 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic block(s) of the amphiphilic block copolymer has a molecular weight between 50,000 and 300,000.